

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-32 (Canceled)

33. (Previously Presented): A method for minimizing undesirable telemarketing calls to subscriber telephone lines, comprising the steps of:

establishing a subscription base of a plurality of subscriber telephone lines;

obtaining a calling party identification for an incoming call to a selected phone line of a subscriber in the subscription base before the call is allowed to ring through to the selected phone line;

comparing the calling party identification with a telemarketing database containing a plurality of telemarketing telephone numbers to determine if there is a match between the calling party identification and any of the plurality of telemarketing telephone numbers, and then:

if there is a match, either taking a preselected action other than completing the call to the selected phone line or completing the incoming call if an override condition is set, or

if there is no match, completing the incoming call, keeping a record of the calling party identification, allowing the subscriber to designate the incoming call as a telemarketing telephone number, and adding the calling party identification into the telemarketing database if a preselected criterion for addition is met once more than one subscriber identifies the potential telemarketing phone line as a potential telemarketing phone line.

34. (Previously presented): A method as recited in claim 33, wherein a portion of the plurality of telemarketing telephone numbers in the telemarketing database is

periodically deleted and numbers in said portion are then again added to the telemarketing database once the preselected criterion for addition has been met.

35. (Previously Presented): A method as recited in claim 34, wherein the telemarketing database includes telephone numbers from more than one area code.

36. (Previously Presented): A method as recited in claim 33, wherein a party other than the subscriber or the caller can set the override condition.

37. (Previously Presented): A method as recited in claim 33, comprising the further step of:

allowing the subscriber to access a customized subscriber database via a computer and selectively vary one or more override conditions for at least one telephone number contained within the customized subscriber database, wherein the customized subscriber database is generated, at least in part, from the telemarketing database.

38. (Previously Presented): A method as recited in claim 33, wherein the subscriber is allowed to selectively vary an override condition for a selected group of telephone numbers.

39. (Previously Presented): A public switched telephone network with an anti-telemarketing feature, comprising:

- a network telephony system;
- a subscription base of a plurality of subscriber phone lines from at least two area codes connected by the network telephony system;
- a logical telemarketing database containing a plurality of telemarketing phone lines from at least two area codes;

a subscriber telemarketing identification mechanism that allows a subscriber to identify a calling party identification as a potential telemarketing phone line;

telemarketing identification logic that adds the potential telemarketing phone line to the logical telemarketing database as one of the plurality of telemarketing phone lines if a preselected criterion for addition is met once more than one subscriber identifies the potential telemarketing phone line as a potential telemarketing phone line; and

a control system that takes a preselected action other than completing a call from one of the plurality of telemarketing phone lines to one of the plurality of subscriber phone lines when an incoming call to any of the plurality of subscriber phone lines is identified as being from any of the plurality of telemarketing phone lines and an override condition is not set.

40. (Previously Presented): An anti-telemarketing system for use in a public switched telephone network, comprising:

a subscription base of a plurality of subscriber phone lines;

a logical telemarketing database containing a plurality of telemarketing phone lines;

a subscriber telemarketing identification mechanism that allows a subscriber to identify a calling party identification as a potential telemarketing phone line;

a telemarketing identification mechanism that can add an identified potential telemarketing phone line to the logical telemarketing database as one of the plurality of telemarketing phone lines if a preselected criterion for addition is met once more than one subscriber identifies the potential telemarketing phone line as a potential telemarketing phone line; and

a control system that takes a preselected action other than completing a call from one of the plurality of telemarketing phone lines to one of the plurality of subscriber phone lines when the call is identified as originating from one of the plurality of telemarketing phone lines.

41. (New) The public switched telephone network recited in claim 39, further comprising:

telemarketing database control logic that deletes a preselected portion of the plurality of telemarketing phone lines from the logical telemarketing database after a given time interval.

42. (New): The anti-telemarketing system recited in claim 40, further comprising:

telemarketing database control logic that deletes a preselected portion of the plurality of telemarketing phone lines from the logical telemarketing database after a given time interval.